(b) if so, the number of such cases during the last one year; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to train air-hostesses with first-aid measures and provide adequate first-aid box in each flight especially to attend heart and asthama patients?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of passenger deaths during flights in Indian Airlines Aircraft from October, 2000 to October, 2001 is four. These deaths were not due to any accident or incident on board.

(c) The Cabin Crew (Airhostesses/Flight Stewards) are trained in first aid administration as per requirements laid out in the Training Manual prescribed by DGCA to deal with the medical emergencies. Such training is imparted at the time of initial induction in the service and also through, regular and periodical refresher courses. The Cabin Crew are trained to administer first aid to heart and asthma patients also.

Each aircraft is equipped with prescribed number of first aid boxes and physician's kit (which can be used by any qualified doctor on board). The first aid boxes and physician's kit contain most of the life supporting medicines in compliance of instructions issued by DGCA.

Closure of Centaur Hotel, New Delhi

2896. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centaur Hotel, New Delhi is running in huge loss;

(b) if so, since when it has been running in loss and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a proposal to wind-up/close down the Centaur Hotel; and

(d) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) (a) and (b) Centaur Hotel, Delhi has been incurring losses since 1997-1998. The main reasons of losses

are:- (i) downturn in travel and tourism, leading to over supply of room capacity and very low yields consequent on competitive rate reduction; (ii) increase in salary burden, due to finalisation of various wage agreements which were pending since 1.1.1997; (iii) Air India's hub and spoke policy leading to reduced requirement of passenger accommodation, specially at Mumbai and Delhi where HCI hotels are located; (iv) global recessionary trends have led to drop in tourist arrival leading to reduced occupancy; (v) the Indian economy itself is passing through recessionary trend, with the result most of the companies have resorted to cost cutting severely affecting the hotel industry and (vi) due to the slow down in economy and the recessionary trends, the hotels are offering rooms at very competitive rates which are at times even lower than HCI's discounted rates.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to wind-up/close-down of Centaur Hotel, New Delhi. However, Government has decided to disinvest HCI which is a subsidiary of Air India Limited. The revenues thus realised will accrue to Air India.

Regular flights from Bagdogra to Kolkata

2897. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Airports Authority, West Bengal regarding regular flights from Bagdogra to Kolkata and vice-versa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) In the recent past, requests have been received from Government of West Bengal regarding increase, in services between Bagdogra and Kolkata. In the Summer Schedule, Indian Airlines was operating three days in a week service